

Gold Extraction Boom Expected In Piute County By Next Spring

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13 By Bill McClure
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MARYSVALE - Ecology Mining Company of Salt Lake City has begun preparations for the commercial recovery of gold, silver and other metals from ore and tailings at Deer Trail and South Fork Mines near here.

EMC president Robert O'Leary said gross receipts from the operation will range from \$450,000 to \$900,000 per month, depending on yield and production capacity.

Weather-permitting, EMC plans to complete a 15,000 square-foot processing plant by January.

"We'll employ about 16 to 20 people during construction," O'Leary said.

Thus far, the company has employed five people and more are in the process of being hired.

Initially, EMC will extract the precious metals from tailings and are which have been left by previous mining efforts.

O'Leary said his company eventually plans to get into mining.

"There could be considerably more jobs when we get into the mountain," he said.

"We're quite excited about it," said Piute County Commissioner Linden Romine. They've created more jobs right now than we have in several years. Until they came along, if we could create one job a year we felt good.

"That many jobs will spawn

other things," he said.

And commissioners like the company's attitude.

"They came in and cleaned up the site first, before they did anything else," Romine said. "That sure made the Forest Service happy."

"It's a godsend for Piute County," he said.

Commissioner Don Julander of Marysville agreed.

"I'm more enthused about this group than others in the past," he said. "I've seen it come and go for 50 years. With mining you don't get too excited too quick."

"But there are a lot of possibilities and, if it goes, it'll give us a tax base to function. Right now all we have is private property and agricultural land."

Julander said EMC has torn down some of the old buildings on the Deer Trail sight and remodeled others.

"It's a first class operation," he said. "They gave us a tour last week of the facilities and they've done some good work there."

And EMC's activities have perked up the activity by other miners as well.

"We expected a tremendous decrease in the filings of mining claims due to the increased filing fees this year," said county recorder Shane Millet. "We've had a little decrease but nothing like we expected."

EMC is a joint venture between Unico, Inc., of Arizona, and EML Projects Ltd., of Salt Lake City. Unico owns 25 percent of EMC and will contribute the Deer Trail and South Fork Mines to the project. EML Projects, which owns 75 percent, will provide its proprietary extraction technology and \$1.25 million for facilities and initial operating costs.

The facility will provide a projected 95 percent recovery rate with processing costs under \$10 per ton. Between 500 and 1,000 tons per day

will be processed.

The process is being touted as a first in the world gold mining industry. It is the first time a unique, environment-sensitive and highly cost-effective technology, currently used for the removal of heavy metals, suspended solids and other contaminants from waste water and leachate systems, will be used for the pollution-free extraction and recovery of gold and other metals from raw ore.